

## **REMARKS**

Claims 1, 9, 10, 17, 19, 20, 22-25 and 27-34 are pending in the application.

This response is believed to place the application in condition for allowance, and entry therefore is respectfully requested. In the alternative, entry of this response is requested as placing the application in better condition for appeal by, at least, reducing the number of issues outstanding.

### **Entry of Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116**

The Applicant requests entry of this Rule 116 Response because the response does not alter the scope of the claims and places the application at least into a better form for purposes of appeal. No new features or new issues are being raised.

The Manual of Patent Examining Procedures (M.P.E.P.) sets forth in Section 714.12 that “any amendment that would place the case either in condition for allowance or in better form for appeal may be entered.” Moreover, Section 714.13 sets forth that “the Proposed Amendment should be given sufficient consideration to determine whether the claims are in condition for allowance and/or whether the issues on appeal are simplified.” The M.P.E.P. further articulates that the reason for any non-entry should be explained expressly in the Advisory Action.

### **Prior Art Rejections**

On pages 2-7 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 17, 19-20, 22-23, 25, and 29 as unpatentable over Nishimoto, Published U.S. Application 2002/0155857, in view of Japanese Patent Publication 05181603 to Hotta et al. and U.S. Patent 6,765,598 to Kim.

It is respectfully submitted that the Examiner’s mention of the Kim reference is in error, as it appears that the Examiner has not relied on Kim in rejecting the claims in the current Office Action.

The Examiner’s rejections are traversed below.

Referring to claim 1, it is submitted that the cited prior art does not teach or suggest:

a control unit for changing an operation mode of said pointing device according to contents displayed on said display screen at the time said pointing device is operated,

wherein said control unit determines a direction in which said operational object can be moved on said display screen according to said operation mode to limit the movement of the operational object on the display screen to less than the 360-degree direction based on the contents displayed on the display screen.

In other words, the invention of claim 1 provides a control unit for changing an operation mode of the pointing device according to contents displayed on the display screen at the time the pointing device is operated. Furthermore, the control unit determines a direction in which the operational object can be moved on the display screen according to the operation mode to limit the movement of the operational object on the display screen to less than the 360-degree direction based on the contents displayed on the display screen. Thus, the present invention as set forth in claim 1 provides a pointing device which has a limited range of movement selected based upon the current display on a display screen.

For example, when the invention of claim 1 is incorporated into a device such as a mobile telephone, PDA, or the like, it is quite likely that the device will be capable of running many different applications in which it is desirable for the user to be able to move the pointing device in any direction, such as the Internet, games, etc. Thus, when one of these applications is running, the control unit of claim 1 allows the pointing device to move the operational object in any direction. However, other applications that run on the device may contain more traditional interfaces in which icons are aligned in a straight line manner. When running these applications, it may be difficult to operate the operational object in any direction and, therefore, it is more desirable to limit movement of the operational object to only the directions in which the icons are arranged. In this situation, the control unit of claim 1 limits the movement of the operational direction. As such, the control unit of claim 1 controls the functionality of the operational object based on the contents displayed on the display screen. These features are not taught by either Nishimoto or Hotta et al.

The Nishimoto reference is directed to a pointing device and mobile telephone in which an optical sensor for reading an optical image of a finger that is kept in contact therewith is installed below an LCD for displaying information (see Abstract). The pointing device has a sensor section which reads an optical image of a finger and detects movements of the finger. Based upon the movements of the finger detected by the sensor section, the control section shifts the pointer (paragraph [0009]). After the pointer has been set to a desired piece of information by the finger contacting the sensor section, the finger is further used to push a switching section so that information is easily selected (paragraph [0014]). Referring to Figs. 1 and 2, a finger 30 is shifted while it is in contact with a sensor window 8 so as to set the pointer to a desired menu among menus displayed on an LCD 3. An optical image of the finger, detected by an image sensor 44c is transmitted to a CPU 10 (Fig. 3) so that the shifting direction and shift distance of the finger 30 are found. Based on this, the CPU 10 shifts the

pointer displayed on LCD 3 (paragraphs [0052 and 0053]). However, Nishimoto does not disclose that the movement capabilities of the pointer are set based on the contents displayed on the LCD screen 3. In fact, Nishimoto provides for only one operation mode for the pointer.

The Hotta et al. reference is directed to an information input device which precisely shifts the cursor on a display in a completely horizontal or vertical direction by operating the cursor while pressing a switch provided on a mouse. This does not correspond to the features of claim 1 of the present invention. Hotta et al. does not disclose limiting the movement of the cursor based on the contents being displayed on a display screen, but instead requires the user to decide when to limit the movement of the cursor by pressing an additional switch provided on the mouse.

For the above reasons, it is submitted that claim 1 patentably distinguishes over the cited prior art.

Claims 9, 10, 17, 19, 20, 22, 30, 33 and 34 depend, directly or indirectly, from claim 1 and include all the features of that claim plus additional features which are not taught or suggested by the prior art.

Claim 23 is directed to a method for controlling a pointing device and recites:

wherein in said controlling step, a direction in which said operational object can be moved on said display screen is determined according to said operation mode to limit the movement of the operational object on the display screen to less than the 360-degree direction based on the contents displayed on the display screen.

Therefore, it is submitted that claim 23 patentably distinguishes over the prior art.

Claims 24 and 31 depend, directly or indirectly, from claim 23 and include all of the features of that claim plus additional features which are not taught or suggested by the prior art. Therefore, it is submitted that claims 24 and 31 patentably distinguish over the prior art.

Claim 25 is directed to a mobile telephone and recites:

wherein said control unit determines a direction in which said operational object can be moved on said display screen according to said operation mode to limit the movement of the operational

object on the display screen to less than the 360-degree direction  
based on the contents displayed on the display screen.

Therefore, it is submitted that claim 25 patentably distinguishes over the prior art.

Claims 27, 28, 29 and 32 depend, directly or indirectly from claim 25 and include all the features of that claim, plus additional features which are not taught or suggested by the prior art. Therefore, it is submitted that these claims patentably distinguish over the prior art.

**CONCLUSION**

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

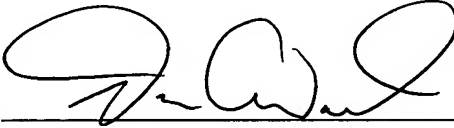
Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

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By:   
Aaron C. Walker  
Registration No. 59,921

1201 New York Avenue, NW, Suite 700  
Washington, D.C. 20005  
Telephone: (202) 434-1500  
Facsimile: (202) 434-1501